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4-11-03**PATENT**

Docket No: 10806-120

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted via facsimile to Group Art Unit 1713; Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231; facsimile number 703-692-7340 on Mar. 10, 2003.

Renee E. Mains**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Albert J. Pennings et al : Paper No.

Serial No.: 09/829,861 : Group Art Unit: 1713

Filing Date: April 10, 2001 : Examiner: S. Sastri

For: **Hydrogels and Methods for Their Production****RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Box Non-Fee Amendment
 Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In the Official Action dated February 13, 2003, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 between claims 1-26 drawn to a hydrogel, claims 27-29 drawn to a final product based on hydrogel, and claims 30-42 drawn to a method of making hydrogel. Applicants hereby elect claims 27-29 for prosecution on the merits. This election is made with traverse on the basis that claims 27-29 incorporate the hydrogel of claim 1, whereby examination all of claims 1-29 in this application would not be unduly burdensome to the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration of the restriction requirement and examination of claims 1-29 in this application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner also required an election of species between polyvinyl alcohol, a copolymer of ethylene and vinyl alcohol, poly(1-hydroxyl-1,3-propanediyl) and polyallyl alcohol. Applicants hereby elect the species of poly(1-hydroxyl-1,3-propanediyl). It is believed that claims 1-12 and 14-29 read on the elected species.

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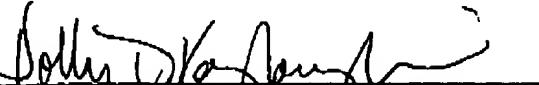
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It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the restriction and election requirements. Examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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